

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-1344

Smith Tobacco Barn

Wash Hance Road

Port Republic Vicinity

Calvert County, Maryland

Prince Frederick USGS Quad

The Smith Tobacco Barn is situated on a small knoll amidst planted fields now owned and farmed by Eddie Smith. The barn is located approximately 0.4 miles up a dirt road from an early twentieth-century farmhouse just south of a branch of Parker Creek. The log barn is small in size measuring only thirty by twenty feet with no sheds. Its logs are uniformly-sized, unchinked and saddle-notched. Consistent with other log barns of this size and composition (Brandenberg Log Tobacco Barn, M-15-16 and Brown's Log Tobacco Barn, M-15-7), Smith Tobacco Barn likely dates from the mid-nineteenth.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1344

1. Name of Property

historic Smith Tobacco Barn
other

2. Location

street and number near 1995 Wash Hance Road ___ not for publication
city, town Port Republic ___ vicinity
county Calvert

3. Owner of Property

name Edward Smith
street and number 1995 Wash Hance Road telephone
city, town Port Republic state MD zip code 20676

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber folio
city, town Prince Frederick tax map 28 tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- _____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- _____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- _____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- _____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- _____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- _____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- _____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	_____ commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ religion	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____ social	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	_____	_____ Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Number of Contributing Resources	
		_____ industry	_____ other:	previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1344

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Smith Tobacco Barn is situated on a small knoll amidst planted fields now owned and farmed by Eddie Smith. The barn is located approximately 0.4 miles up a dirt road from an early twentieth-century farmhouse and 0.2 miles south of a branch of Parker Creek. The log barn is small in size measuring only thirty by twenty feet with no sheds. Its logs are uniformly-sized, unchinked and saddle-notched. Consistent with other log barns of this size and composition (Brandenberg Log Tobacco Barn, M-15-16 and Brown's Log Tobacco Barn, M-15-7), the Smith Tobacco Barn likely dates from the mid-nineteenth.

Oriented southwest to northeast, the Smith barn consists of a single log pen about two stories in height. Its interior is divided into seven four-foot rooms. Single doors are centered on each long elevation, although the door on the northwest elevation has been enlarged and modernized. The entry on the southeast elevation appears to be original measuring three-and-a-half by four-and-a-half feet. The bottom log of the structural frame is continuous and forms the entry sill. Entrance jambs are circular-sawn boards attached to the log frame with a combination of square-headed machine-cut nails and wire nails suggesting construction date no later than the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Tier poles run across the barn at four foot intervals. A line of pole supports resting on the ground run with the ridge of the roof. A pole beam is nailed to these posts which supports the tier poles at their mid-point. The ends of the tier poles are hewn to fit between the horizontal logs of the framing system.

The horizontal log construction of the barn consists of uniformly sized logs that have been skinned and saddle-notched into place. The ends of the logs have been trimmed and do not protrude past the vertical board siding which now sheathes the barn. While gaps between the horizontal logs would have originally provided ventilation for air-curing in this barn, vertical board siding was added sometime in the twentieth century and irregularly-placed side-hinged vents were added to increase ventilation. The log framing system rests on intermittent unmortared fieldstone piers. Pole rafters placed on four foot centers are notched over the hewn plate. Three circular sawn collars tie into the rafters and support a corrugated metal roof. Closely spaced purlins suggest this barn was originally covered with shingles. Windbraces reinforce the roof. An open porch has been added to the northeast gable end since the barn's modern conversion to a hunting cabin.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1344

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates second half of the 19th century

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Smith Tobacco Barn represents one of the few remaining single-crib log tobacco barns in Calvert County. This barn's unusually small size stands in stark contrast to contemporaneous barns three and four times its size. Unchinked small log barns presented an easy way to evenly ventilate a small quantity of tobacco. Barns of this size and construction method were rarely built after the 1860s and 1870s. The Smith barn stands today isolated in old tobacco fields. Drywall partitions have been put up in the barn to convert it into a hunting cabin.

Information gathered from this barn can also be used to understand larger patterns of tobacco barn construction and curing processes across southern Maryland. Between 2007 and 2008, the Center for Historic Architecture and Design conducted intensive-level documentation across Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties on tobacco barns that represented both common and unique construction between 1750 and 1950. Like the Calvert County Tobacco Barn Survey conducted in 1990, the purpose of this study was to document and record tobacco barns as a highly threatened architectural and agricultural resource. The National Trust for Preservation cited the Southern Maryland Tobacco Barn as one of the eleven most threatened building types in the United States. Information from this study reveals specific patterns of change over time in use and construction of tobacco barns across the southern Maryland region.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1344

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name Prince Frederick

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Anna Blinn Cole, Graduate Research Assistant		
organization	Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware	date	February 2009
street & number	307 Allison Hall	telephone	302-831-8097
city or town	Newark	state	DE

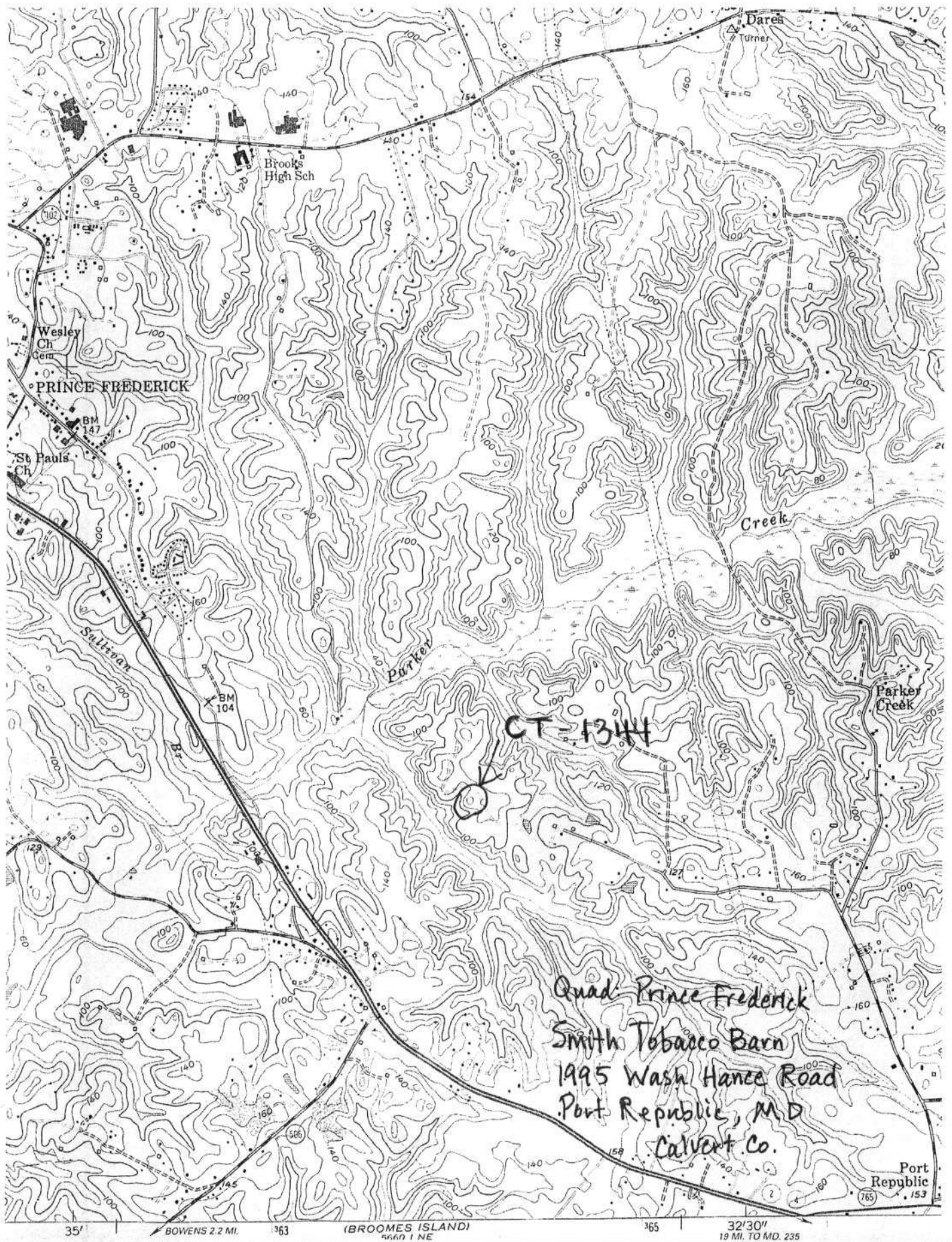
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CT-1344
Smith Tobacco Barn
1995 Wash Hance Rd.
Port Republic Vicinity
Calvert County, Maryland

For additional documentation of this resource see the "Southern Maryland Tobacco
Barn Project"; call number FRR Mary 21



Brooks High Sch

Wesley Ch Cem

PRINCE FREDERICK

St Pauls Ch

BM 147

BM 104

CT-1344

Quad: Prince Frederick
Smith Tobacco Barn
1995 Wash Hance Road
Port Republic, Md
Calvert Co.

Port Republic

35'

BOWENS 2.2 MI.

363

(BROOKES ISLAND)
5660 1 NE

365

32'30"
19 MI. TO MD. 235



CT-1344, Smith Tobacco Barn
Port Republic, Calvert County
Photo by Center for Historic Architecture and Design Staff
Looking northwest
March, 2008



CT-1344, Smith Tobacco Barn
Port Republic, Calvert County
Photo by Center for Historic Architecture and Design Staff
Looking south
March, 2008